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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/779,682

02/18/2004

Shinya Ono

2611-0211P

8545

2292

7590

10/13/2006

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

DHARIA, PRABODH M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/779,682	Applicant(s) ONO ET AL.	
	Examiner Prabodh M. Dharia	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05-18-04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05-18-2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 7-19-2004. These drawings are accepted by the examiner.

Response to Amendment

4. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted on 07-19-2004 under the preliminary amendments, which have been placed of record in the file. It does not introduce new matters into the disclosure. The added material is supported by the original disclosure. Please all the replies and correspondence should be addressed to examiner's new art unit 2629. Claims 1-12 are pending in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (US 2001/0026251) in view of Yumoto (US 2002/0195964 A1).

Regarding Claim 1,6 and 9 Hunter et al. teaches an image display apparatus (page 2, paragraph 32, Lines 1,2, paragraphs 35,37,16, page 3, paragraph 41, page 4, paragraphs 51,52 and page 1, paragraphs 11-13,15,16, figures 2-6) comprising: a current-controlled light emitting element that emits light (page 2, paragraph 35, Lines 4-6) with a brightness corresponding to a current flowing (page 2, paragraph 35, Lines 5,6) in the current-controlled light emitting element (page 2, paragraphs 35,36); a current source that supplies the current to the current-controlled light emitting element (page 2, paragraph 35); a driver element that includes at least first and second terminals (page 2, paragraph 37) and controls the current flowing into the electric light emitting element from the current source based on a potential difference applied between the terminals page 2, paragraph 37, page 3, paragraph 40); a data line that supplies a potential to the first terminal; a conductive member that is electrically connected to the second terminal (gate and source or drain of the TFT); and a threshold voltage obtaining unit that obtains a threshold voltage of the driver element based on the potential of the conductive member (channel formed between source and drain conducts the current) corresponding to an amount of charges supplied from the current source to the second terminal (page 4, paragraphs 51,52, page 3, paragraph 41, page 1, paragraphs 11-13 and 15,16, page 2, paragraph 16).; the data line supplies a potential to the first terminal so that a voltage between the first terminal and the second terminal becomes a

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potential obtained by multiplying a sum of the threshold voltage obtained by the threshold voltage obtaining unit (page 4, paragraph 52, page 3, paragraph 41).

However, Hunter et al. fails to disclose specifically current controlled light emitting element that emits light with a brightness corresponding to a current flowing in; the threshold voltage-obtaining unit obtains the threshold voltage, and obtains a mobility in a current passage portion of the driver element and a coefficient according to a shape of the current passage portion and a data voltage corresponding to a display image, by a value determined based on the mobility in the current passage portion of the driver element and the coefficient according to the shape of the current passage portion .

However Yumoto recites and discloses current controlled light emitting element that emits light with a brightness corresponding to a current flowing in (page 1, paragraph 1); the threshold voltage-obtaining unit obtains the threshold voltage, and obtains a mobility in a current passage portion of the driver element and a coefficient according to a shape of the current passage portion (page 6, paragraph 90) and a data voltage corresponding to a display image, by a value determined based on the mobility in the current passage portion of the driver element and the coefficient according to the shape of the current passage portion (page 6, paragraphs 85-92).

The motivation to combine Hunter et al. with Yumoto as Yumoto addresses specifically the control of the brightness and monitors the parameters of the TFT to determine the current and threshold voltage required which allows to control luminous brightness of the OLED accurately.

Thus it is obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to incorporate teaching of Yumoto in teaching of Hunter et al. to able to have a an image displaying unit control brightness accurately such that display unit realizes accurate black levels

and gradation around the black levels throughout the data lines regardless of variations present in the data line driving circuit, and thus display an image with smaller variations in brightness.

Regarding Claim 2, Hunter et al. teaches the driver element becomes on-state by applying a potential higher than an estimated threshold voltage, between the first terminal and the second terminal (gate and source of the TFT) upon starting to obtain the threshold voltage, and the conductive member (channel formed between source and drain conducts the current) whose potential rises by accumulating charges supplied from the current source through the driver element and the current-controlled light emitting element after the driver element becomes on-state (page 3, paragraphs 39-41, page 2, paragraphs 35,36).

Regarding Claim 3, Hunter et al. teaches the driver element becomes off-state caused by rising of the potential of the conductive member up to a predetermined potential after the driver element becomes on-state, and the threshold voltage obtaining unit obtains a threshold voltage based on the potential of the conductive member after the driver element becomes off-state (page 4, paragraphs 51,52).

Regarding Claim 4, Hunter et al. teaches the threshold voltage obtaining unit obtains a threshold voltage based on potentials of the conductive member at two or more different times after the driver element becomes on-state and before the driver element becomes off-state caused by rising of the potential of the conductive member up to a predetermined potential (page 4,

paragraphs 51-59 it does adjust charged capacitor voltage until the proper threshold achieved).

Regarding Claim 5, Hunter et al. teaches the threshold voltage obtaining unit obtains a threshold voltage using a total sum of a capacitance of the second terminal and a capacitance of a capacitor connected to the conductive member and a potential applied to the first terminal, as parameters (page 5, paragraph 70-77, page 6, paragraph 77).

Regarding Claim 7, Hunter et al. teaches a database in which potentials of the conductive member and threshold voltages of the driver element are associated with each other, wherein the threshold voltage obtaining unit obtains a threshold voltage by referring to the database based on the potentials of the conductive member at one or more times after the driver element becomes on-state (page 4, paragraphs 51-54).

Regarding Claim 8, Hunter et al. teaches a potential is supplied to the first terminal upon displaying an image so that a voltage between the first terminal and the second terminal becomes a sum of the threshold voltage obtained by the threshold voltage obtaining unit and a data voltage corresponding to a display image (page 4, paragraphs 51-54, page 5, paragraph 70-77, page 6, paragraph 77).

Regarding Claim 10, Hunter et al. teaches a constant potential supply unit that supplies a substantially constant potential upon displaying an image; and a switching unit that establishes a connection between the constant potential supply unit and the conductive member upon

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displaying the image, and isolates the constant potential supply unit from the conductive member upon obtaining the threshold voltage (page 4, paragraph 52, page 3, paragraph 41).

Regarding Claim 11, Hunter et al. teaches the driver element is a thin film transistor which includes a gate electrode, a source electrode, and a drain electrode, the first terminal corresponds to the gate electrode, and the second terminal corresponds to the source electrode (page 3, paragraph 41, Lines 1-7, 12-14).

Regarding Claim 12, Hunter et al. teaches the current-controlled light emitting element is an organic electro-luminescence element (page 2, paragraph 34, Lines 1-3)

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Komiya (US 2003/0030601 A1) Organic EL circuit.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prabodh M. Dharia whose telephone number is 571-272-7668. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM to 5PM.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

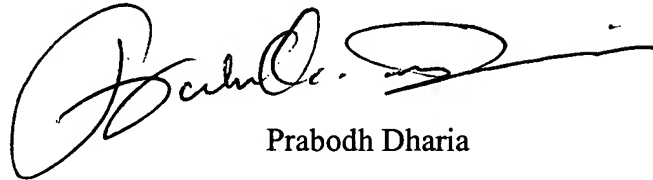
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10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231



Prabodh Dharia

Partial Signatory Authority Program

AU2629

October 8, 2006